



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: Aug 25, 2011

Number: 11-16

Subject: Adoption of Precondition 1 Related to Non-Regionally Accredited Institutions and Other Program Sponsors

## Summary

This alert provides notice of the rationale for the revision of Precondition 1 related to Non-Regionally Accredited Institutions and Other Program Sponsors, adopted by the Commission at its August 4, 2011 meeting.

## Background

At the January 2011 Committee on Accreditation (COA) meeting an agenda item was presented on the responsibilities of institutions approved by the Commission to offer educator preparation programs (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/coa-agendas/2011-01/2011-01-item-09.pdf>).

Based on discussion at that meeting, staff brought an additional information item to the COA at the March 2011 meeting. At the April 2011 meeting the COA took action to forward suggested revised language for Precondition 1 to the Commission for discussion and possible adoption. At the June 2011 Commission meeting, this item was presented to the Commission for information and discussion. The Commission asked for additional information about the “teach out” component of WASC. That information was provided at the August meeting of the Commission:

At the August 4, 2011 meeting the Commission adopted revised language for Precondition 1. Provided below is the revised Precondition 1:

- (1) **Accreditation and Academic Credit.** To be granted initial institutional accreditation by the Commission to become eligible to submit programs or to be granted initial program accreditation or continuing accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation, the program(s) must be proposed and operated by a college or university that (a) is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or another of the six regional accrediting associations, and (b) grants baccalaureate academic

credit or post baccalaureate academic credit, or both. (This provision does not apply to professional preparation programs offered by school districts.)

For school districts or other non-regionally accredited entities wishing to offer an educator preparation program, the Superintendent or CEO of the district or entity shall submit verification of the governing board's approval of sponsorship of the program. The agreement to sponsor a program must include verification of the following:

Once a candidate is accepted and enrolls in an educator preparation program, the sponsor must offer the approved program, meeting the adopted standards, until the candidate:

- i) completes the program,
- ii) withdraws from the program,
- iii) is dropped from the program based on established criteria, or
- iv) is admitted to another approved program to complete the requirements, with minimal disruption, for the authorization in the event the program closes. In this event, an individual transition plan would need to be developed with each candidate.

All related documents and materials have been revised to reflect the new language. Further, in adopting the revised Precondition 1 language, the Commission referenced the WASC "teach out" provision. This provision ensures that program options are made available for students who are impacted by the closing of a program and that at least one option is a reasonable alternative for those students. The Committee on Accreditation will review the WASC "teach out" provision language and determine whether similar language would be added to the Accreditation Handbook on the sections related to withdrawing or closing a program to further clarify the expectations as they relate to Precondition 1.

The revised language requires all school districts, county office of education and other entities to work with candidates who have been accepted into an approved program in a similar manner to the requirement that regionally accredited institutions must meet. All currently approved institutions are subject to the revised language of Precondition 1 as of August 4, 2011.

## **References**

Adoption of Precondition 1 Related to Non-Regionally Accredited Institutions and Other Program Sponsors

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2011-08/2011-08-2A.pdf>

Accreditation Handbook – Chapter Three- Institutional and Program Approval

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/accred-handbook.html>

## **Contact Information**

For additional information about Precondition 1, please contact either Teri Ackerman at [tackerman@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:tackerman@ctc.ca.gov)